

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA

§ 3.56

Category	Individual weights (pounds)	Minimum space per rabbit (square inches)
Groups	3 through 5	144
	6 through 8	288
	9 or more	432
Individual adults	3 through 5	180
	6 through 8	360
	9 through 11	540
Nursing females	12 or more	720
	3 through 5	576
	6 through 8	720
	9 through 11	864
	12 or more	1080

(c) *Space requirements for primary enclosures acquired on or after August 15, 1990.* (1) Primary enclosures shall be constructed and maintained so as to provide sufficient space for the animal to make normal postural adjustments with adequate freedom of movement.

(2) Each rabbit housed in a primary enclosure shall be provided a minimum amount of floor space, exclusive of the space taken up by food and water receptacles, in accordance with the following table:

	Individual weights		Minimum floor space		Minimum interior height	
	kg	lbs	m ²	ft ²	cm	in
Individual rabbits (weaned)	<2	<4.4	0.14	1.5	35.56	14
	2-4	4.4-8.8	0.28	3.0	35.56	14
	4-5.4	8.8-11.9	0.37	4.0	35.56	14
	>5.4	>11.9	0.46	5.0	35.56	14
	Weight of nursing female		Minimum floor space/female & litter		Minimum interior height	
	kg	lbs	m ²	ft ²	cm	in
Females with litters	<2	<4.4	0.37	4.0	35.56	14
	2-4	4.4-8.8	0.46	5.0	35.56	14
	4-5.4	8.8-11.9	0.56	6.0	35.56	14
	>5.4	>11.9	0.70	7.5	35.56	14

(3) Innovative primary enclosures that do not precisely meet the space requirements of paragraph (c)(2) of this section, but that do provide rabbits with a sufficient volume of space and the opportunity to express species-typical behavior, may be used at research facilities when approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, and by dealers and exhibitors when approved by the Administrator.

(b) Food receptacles shall be accessible to all rabbits in a primary enclosure and shall be located so as to minimize contamination by excreta. All food receptacles shall be kept clean and sanitized at least once every 2 weeks. If self feeders are used for the feeding of dry feed, measures must be taken to prevent molding, deterioration or caking of the feed.

§ 3.55 Watering.

Sufficient potable water shall be provided daily except as might otherwise be required to provide adequate veterinary care. All watering receptacles shall be sanitized when dirty: *Provided, however,* That such receptacles shall be sanitized at least once every 2 weeks.

§ 3.56 Sanitation.

(a) *Cleaning of primary enclosures.* (1) Primary enclosures shall be kept reasonably free of excreta, hair, cobwebs and other debris by periodic cleaning. Measures shall be taken to prevent the wetting of rabbits in such enclosures if a washing process is used.

[32 FR 3273, Feb. 24, 1967, as amended at 55 FR 28883, July 16, 1990]

ANIMAL HEALTH AND HUSBANDRY STANDARDS

§ 3.54 Feeding.

(a) Rabbits shall be fed at least once each day except as otherwise might be required to provide adequate veterinary care. The food shall be free from contamination, wholesome, palatable and of sufficient quantity and nutritive value to meet the normal daily requirements for the condition and size of the rabbit.